Reclamation of land given to sea bird project

3382. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for reclamation of 17 acres of port land by Sea Bird Project is pending with Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in handing over the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Director of Ports, Government of Karnataka have forwarded the coordinates of the land, where reclamation is to be done, to the sea bird Project authorities. However, the area indicated covers a portion of beach and part of the sea used by the local fishermen for anchoring of their boats. Port authorities are yet to confirm that the area intimated for reclamation is as per the Master Plan for the Port and is clear of all social issues. Further, Port Department, Government of Karnataka has intimated that mandatory clearance from Central Water Power Research Station, Ministry of Environment and Forest, etc. are yet to be obtained.

Development of LCA Radar

3383. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much vaunted radar of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) that has been long under development by the DRDO could require foreign help as the radar is now "marooned in uncertainty";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Multi-Mode Radar (MMR), considered the very brain of the LCA is being developed for the past nine years and a sizable portion of the Rs. 3,214 crore sanctioned for the project has gone into making it; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to expedite the development pace?